

Minority Health Facts

HISPANICS/LATINOS in Rhode Island

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about major health indicators for the Hispanic/Latino population living in Rhode Island. A Hispanic/Latino is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15) as a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture regardless of race. A White person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.

This report presents data on socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and access to healthcare among Hispanic/Latino Rhode Islanders in comparison to the White non-Hispanic and overall state populations. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Health Department data sets are based on self-identification.

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census 2005 American Community Survey, there are 112,722 Hispanics/Latinos living in Rhode Island (RI). About 10.9% of the total RI population is Hispanic/Latino. These estimates indicate that the Hispanic/Latino population is the largest and one of the most diverse minority populations in the state. Persons of Puerto Rican origin form the largest Hispanic/Latino population in Rhode Island, followed by Dominicans and Colombians. Nearly 98% of Hispanics/Latinos live in urban areas, with the largest concentration of Hispanics/Latinos living in Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls. Approximately 83% of Hispanics/Latinos in Rhode Island over the age of five speak a language other than English in the home (usually Spanish). The median age for the Hispanic/Latino population is 25 years whereas the overall state median age is 38 years. About 89% of the Hispanic/Latino population is age 50 or less, compared to 70.2% of the overall state population that is age 50 or less.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's Hispanic/Latino population from the 2000 Census. These characteristics may affect the health of Hispanic/Latino Rhode Islanders.

- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos living below poverty level is over three times that of the White and the overall state populations.
- The median household income for Hispanics/Latinos is \$20,800—over \$23,700 less than the state median and over \$24,000 less than the White population.
- A lower percentage of Hispanics/Latinos graduate from high school, and a greater percentage of Hispanics/Latinos are unemployed than the White and the overall state populations.



Table A: Socio-Economic Data

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of population living below poverty ¹	36.0	7.9	11.9
Percentage of population that is unemployed ²	6.9	3.1	3.6
Median household income ³	\$20.8k	\$45.3k	\$44.5k
High School graduation rate ⁴ (percent)	74.0	88.0	85.0

SOURCES: ¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 1999 data.

²U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2000 data.

³U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2001 estimates.

⁴RI Kids Count Factbook, 2006; 2005 data.

MORTALITY

- For the period between 2000-2004, the top two causes of death for the Hispanic/Latino population and the overall state were cancer and heart disease. Unintentional injuries and homicide were the third and fourth top causes of death in the Hispanic/Latino population. However, these causes of death are not ranked among the top five for the White or overall state populations.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

- The Hispanic/Latino population participates less in physical activity than the White and the overall state populations.
- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos who are obese is higher than the White and the overall state populations.
- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos who smoke cigarettes is lower than the White and the overall state populations.



Table B: Leading Causes of Death, 2000-2004

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
1	Cancer	Heart disease	Heart disease
2	Heart disease	Cancer	Cancer
3	Unintentional Injuries	Stroke	Stroke
4	Homicide	Chronic respiratory diseases	Chronic respiratory diseases
5	Stroke	Pneumonia/influenza	Pneumonia/influenza

SOURCE: RI Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2000-2004.

Table C: Behavioral Risk Factor Indicators

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adult population ¹ that participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day (2001, 2003, 2005)	36.6	51.4	49.8
Percentage of adult population that is overweight ² or (20 yrs+) (2000-2005)	38.2	38.4	38.2
Percentage of adult population that is obese ³ (20 yrs+) (2002-2005)	24.2	19.2	19.6
Percentage of adult population that consumes at least five daily servings of fruits and vegetables per day (2002, 2003, 2005)	23.3	27.9	27.5
Percentage of adult population that smokes cigarettes (2002-2005)	15.4	21.6	21.4
Percentage of adult population that consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking) (2002-2005)	15.1	17.4	17.2

SOURCE: RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

¹Adult population refers to individuals 18 years and older unless otherwise specified.

²Overweight defined by CDC as BMI ≥ 25 to <30 .

³Obesity defined by CDC as BMI ≥ 30 .

**Table D: Incidence Rates of Infectious Diseases:
Cases per 100,000 Population**

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Gonorrhea ¹	80.4	21.3	41.8
Chlamydia ¹	1,216.7	133.5	311.8
Tuberculosis ²	17.6	2.0	4.5
HIV ³	30.0	6.1	17.2

SOURCES: RI Dept. of Health, Office of Communicable Diseases

¹Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data 2005.

²Tuberculosis Database 2005.

³HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data 2005.

Table E: Maternal and Child Health Indicators

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care ¹	13.3	8.6	9.9
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens) ¹	94.5	30.0	31.0
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ¹	34.2	13.9	15.2
Percentage of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs.) ¹	8.2	7.4	8.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ²	8.2	5.6	6.4
Percentage of children in poverty (<18 yrs.) ³	47.0	12.0	19.5

SOURCES: ¹RI Dept. of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2001-2005.

²Infant Mortality Database, 2001-2005.

³RI Kids Count Factbook 2006; 2005 data.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- The rate of gonorrhea is about two times higher in the Hispanic/Latino population than in the overall state population and almost four times higher than the White population.
- The rate of chlamydia in Rhode Island's Hispanic/Latino population is nearly four times higher than the overall state population and nine times higher than the White population.
- During 2005, the rate for tuberculosis cases was nearly four times higher for Hispanics/Latinos, and HIV was almost two times higher for Hispanic/Latinos than it was for the overall state population. Hispanic/Latino tuberculosis rates are eight times higher, and HIV rates five times higher than the White population.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- The overall state and the White populations have more favorable maternal and child health outcome indicators compared to the Hispanic/Latino population.
- A higher percentage of Hispanics/Latinos have delayed prenatal care and the percentage of teen births is about three times that of the White and the overall state populations.
- The percentage of Hispanic/Latino children who grow up in poverty is more than twice that of the overall state population and nearly four times that of the White population.



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos that report *having no health insurance* is nearly four times higher than the White population and almost three times that of the overall state population.
- Hispanics/Latinos report higher screening rates for pap tests compared to the White and the overall state populations.
- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos who report being unable to afford to see a doctor is over twice that of the White and overall state populations.

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Table F: Access to Healthcare Indicators

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adults less than 65 years old that report having no health insurance ¹ (2002-2005)	29.6	7.6	10.5
Percentage of adults that report having no specific source of ongoing healthcare ¹ (2000-2001)	23.7	14.2	15.6
Percentage of population (all ages) stating usual source of care as none or emergency room ² (2000-2001)	7.0	4.6	4.9
Percentage of women aged 40+ that report receiving a mammogram in the past 2 yrs ^{1,3} (2001, 2002, 2004)	90.1	90.0	90.1
Percentage of women that reported having a pap test in the past 3 yrs ^{1,3} (2001, 2002, 2004)	94.2	86.1	86.9
Percentage of adults that said "yes" when asked if there was a time they could not afford to see a doctor ¹ (2003-2005)	21.2	7.5	9.3

SOURCES: ¹RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

²RI Health Interview Survey.

³The denominator includes only women who have ever been screened.

For more information regarding minority health and the statistics contained in this report, please contact:

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